

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-35. The Applicant respectfully requests that the instant application be reconsidered in view of the following remarks.

Election

In the February 10, 2005 Office Action, claims 1-35 are presently subject to restriction/election. In particular, the February 10, 2005 Office Action identifies Group I claims 1-19 and Group II claims 20-35.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-19 without traverse.

In addition, the February 10, 2005 Office Action identifies five species of the claimed invention. In particular, the February 10, 2005 Office Action identifies Embodiment 1: figure 5; Embodiment 2: figure 6; Embodiment 3: figure 7; Embodiment 4: figure 8; and Embodiment 5: figure 9;

Applicants hereby elect the species corresponding to Figure 5. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 15-18 are readable on Figure 5. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claims 11-14 and 19-35 without prejudice herewith.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees

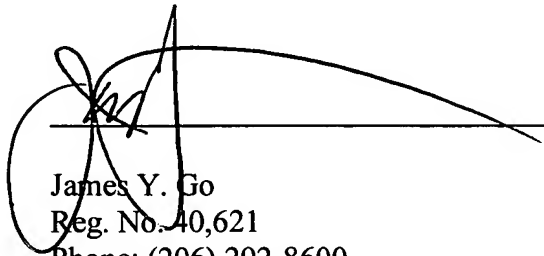
required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 3-1-05


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FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on March 1, 2005

Date of Deposit

Yuko Tanaka

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Y. Tanaka
Signature

March 1, 2005
Date